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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE HAGUE CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF 1899 AND 1907, ACCOMPANIED BY TABLES OF SIGNATURES, RATIFICATIONS, *etc.* Edited by James Brown Scott. Pp. xxx and 303. New York: Oxford University Press, 1915.

With our traditional prejudice against foreign entanglements (except when they are proposed in the seductive form of titled marriage) even these conventions drafted at the Hague in 1899 and 1907 appear to have failed to convince us that we are one of a family of nations, sharing responsibilities with the rest, and not the lords of creation, self-sufficient, secure, predestined to greatness and unaffected by the feelings of the foreigner. How otherwise can one explain the total absence of uneasiness or restlessness of conscience at the manner in which we have calmly disregarded the existence of the Hague treaties to which we are a signatory party? The present plight of Europe testifies to the fact that the Hague treaties mean no more to a well armed brigand than do any other bits of parchment, and the present plight of the Hague treaties shows that we in this country never took them for anything but sentimental expressions of courtesy and well wishing, binding us to nothing more inconvenient than benevolent aloofness if the promises were ever broken.

Early in the great war some of our sturdy patriots, moved by a primitive sense of obligation under a formal contract and apparently seeking to explain our failure to do anything, resorted to the special pleading that the material parts of the military and naval conventions of the Hague were never ratified, and this impression was sedulously given currency by several prominent journals that ought to have known better. For this reason a definite and authoritative publication of all the ratifications and reservations to the convention is a useful public service for which the Carnegie Endowment deserves thanks.

But at the same time the publication anew of the text of the conventions arouses upon re-perusal a sense of the solemn foolery that they represent. With what grim humor must "His Excellency Baron Marschall Von Bieberstein, Minister of State, Imperial Ambassador at Constantinople," fresh from the intrigues of the Bosphorus and Bagdad, have signed his name at the very top of the list of delegates, to these words, in the Final Act of 1907: "By working together here during the past four months the collective powers not only have learnt to understand one another and to draw closer together, but have succeeded in the course of this long collaboration in evolving a very lofty conception of the common welfare of humanity."

Within a twelve month his Imperial master appeared "in shining armor" beside his vassal-ally Austria to sanctify with his mighty arm the theft of Bosnia out of which have flowed with irresistible violence the currents of war and destruction upon the whole of Europe.

Samuel Rosenbaum.

GUIDE TO THE LAW AND LEGAL LITERATURE OF SPAIN. PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF EDWIN M. BORCHARD, LAW LIBRARIAN OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. By Thomas W. Palmer, Jr. Pp. 174. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1915.

This volume is worthy of its predecessors: "Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Germany" (1912) and "Bibliography of International Law and Continental Law" (1913), the aim of which was "to make more readily ac-